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109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5118

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to extend certain Medicare payment methodologies provided for rural health care providers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2006

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon (for himself, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BERRY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. BOYD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASE, Mr. COSTELLO, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. DEFazio, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. KIND, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MCINTYRE, Miss MCMORRIS, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. RENZI, Mr. ROSS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. TANNER, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to extend certain Medicare payment methodologies provided for rural health care providers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
 5 “Medicare Rural Health Provider Payment Extension Act
 6 of 2006”.

7 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

Sec. 2. Extension of medicare rural hospital hold harmless provision under the
 prospective payment system for hospital outpatient department
 (HOPD) services.

Sec. 3. Extension of medicare incentive payment program for physician scarcity
 areas.

Sec. 4. Extension of medicare increase payments for ground ambulance services
 in rural areas.

Sec. 5. Extension of floor on medicare work geographic adjustment.

Sec. 6. Extension of medicare reasonable costs payments for certain clinical di-
 agnostic laboratory tests furnished to hospital patients in cer-
 tain rural areas.

Sec. 7. Extension of temporary medicare payment increase for home health
 services furnished in a rural area.

8 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF MEDICARE RURAL HOSPITAL HOLD**

9 **HARMLESS PROVISION UNDER THE PRO-**
 10 **SPECTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM FOR HOSPITAL**
 11 **OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT (HOPD) SERV-**
 12 **ICES.**

13 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1833(t)(7)(D)(i) of the
 14 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(t)(7)(D)(i)), as
 15 amended by section 5105 of the Deficit Reduction Act of
 16 2005, is amended—

17 (1) in subelause (I)—

18 (A) by striking “(I)”; and

1 (B) by striking “2006” and inserting
2 “2010”; and

3 (2) by striking subclause (II).

4 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
5 subsection (a) shall apply to covered OPD services fur-
6 nished on or after January 1, 2006.

7 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF MEDICARE INCENTIVE PAYMENT**
8 **PROGRAM FOR PHYSICIAN SCARCITY AREAS.**

9 Section 1833(u)(1) of the Social Security Act (42
10 U.S.C. 1395l(u)(1)) is amended by striking “2008” and
11 inserting “2011”.

12 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF MEDICARE INCREASE PAYMENTS**
13 **FOR GROUND AMBULANCE SERVICES IN**
14 **RURAL AREAS.**

15 Section 1834(l)(13) of the Social Security Act (42
16 U.S.C. 1395m(l)(13)) is amended—

17 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

18 (A) in the matter before clause (i), by
19 striking “furnished on or after July 1, 2004,
20 and before January 1, 2007,”;

21 (B) in clause (i), by inserting “for services
22 furnished on or after July 1, 2004, and before
23 January 1, 2011,” after “in such paragraph,”;
24 and

1 (C) in clause (ii), by inserting “for services
 2 furnished on or after July 1, 2004, and before
 3 January 1, 2007,” after “in clause (i),”; and
 4 (2) in subparagraph (B)—

5 (A) in the heading, by striking “AFTER
 6 2006” and inserting “FOR SUBSEQUENT PERI-
 7 ODS”;

8 (B) by inserting “clauses (i) and (ii) of”
 9 before “subparagraph (A)”; and

10 (C) by striking “in such subparagraph”
 11 and inserting “in the respective clause”.

12 **SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF FLOOR ON MEDICARE WORK GEO-**
 13 **GRAPHIC ADJUSTMENT.**

14 Section 1848(e)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (42
 15 U.S.C. 1395w-4(e)(1)(E)) is amended by striking “2007”
 16 and inserting “2011”.

17 **SEC. 6. EXTENSION OF MEDICARE REASONABLE COSTS**
 18 **PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN CLINICAL DIAG-**
 19 **NOSTIC LABORATORY TESTS FURNISHED TO**
 20 **HOSPITAL PATIENTS IN CERTAIN RURAL**
 21 **AREAS.**

22 Section 416(b) of the Medicare Prescription Drug,
 23 Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (Public Law
 24 108-173; 117 Stat. 2282; 42 U.S.C. 1395l-4(b)) is
 25 amended by striking “2-year” and inserting “7-year”.

1 SEC. 7. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY MEDICARE PAYMENT
2 INCREASE FOR HOME HEALTH SERVICES
3 FURNISHED IN A RURAL AREA.

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 421 of the Medicare Pre-
5 scription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of
6 2003 (Public Law 108–173; 117 Stat. 2283; 42 U.S.C.
7 1395fff note), as amended by section 5201(b) of the Def-
8 icit Reduction Act of 2005, is amended—

9 (1) in the heading, by striking “**ONE-YEAR**”
10 and inserting “**TEMPORARY**”; and

11 (2) in subsection (a) by striking “before April
12 1, 2005, and episodes and visits beginning on or
13 after January 1, 2006, and before January 1, 2007”
14 and inserting “before December 31, 2011”.

15 (b) APPLICATION TO CERTAIN HOME HEALTH SERV-
16 ICES FURNISHED PRIOR TO DATE OF ENACTMENT.—For
17 episodes and visits for home health services furnished on
18 or after April 1, 2005, and before the date of the enact-
19 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human
20 Services shall provide for a lump sum payment, not later
21 than 60 days after such enactment, of amounts due under
22 the amendment made by subsection (a)(2).

23 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
24 subsection (a) shall apply to episodes and visits on or after
25 April 1, 2005.

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